IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

a computing system accessing a relational database to obtain configuration information regarding ~~creation of~~ a unit of manufacture, the relational database comprising ~~at least one parts information lookup table,~~ at least one location information lookup table, at least one parts information lookup table, and at least one unit storage table~~, and a pair of configuration management storage tables, wherein said accessing the relational database comprises using a first index key, the first index key defining a group of configuration management records for a part definition, location definition or unit definition, and using a second index key, the second index key defining current configuration management records for a part definition, location definition, or a unit location, wherein said pair of configuration management storage tables are linked together, and one of said configuration management storage tables comprises a configuration management status table and the other comprises a configuration management memo table, wherein the configuration management memo table stores configuration comments~~; and

the computing system retrieving configuration information on the unit of manufacture from [[on]] at least a portion of the relational database;~~, wherein:~~

wherein said at least one location information lookup table comprises:

a list of available locations in the unit of manufacture to place a part from the at least one parts information lookup table; ~~in the unit of manufacture~~ and

information indicating, for each one of a plurality of available locations in the unit of manufacture, whether that location is required to be populated by a part;

~~further comprises a location definition lookup table;~~

wherein said at least one parts information lookup table comprises entries for a plurality of parts usable in different types of units of manufactures ~~providing a catalog of parts and a parts list lookup table capable of identifying one or more parts~~; and

wherein said at least one unit storage table ~~comprises~~ specifies a configuration of the unit of manufacture[[,]] and comprises[[ing]]:

> ~~a unit definition storage table, which is related to said at least one location information lookup table to identify the unit of manufacture~~
>
> a unit parts list storage table containing information indicating a list of parts for the configuration of the unit of manufacture, and further containing, for each part in the list of parts, information usable to determine at least one location within the unit of manufacture at which that part can be placed ~~,~~ ~~which is related to one or more of said parts in said at least one parts list information lookup table~~, ~~to provide a list of parts for one or more units of said unit of manufacture, where one or more parts in said unit parts list storage table is assigned a location from said location definition lookup table~~; and
>
> a unit parameter list storage table~~, to record~~ containing information regarding configuration parameter values for one or more parts in the unit parts list storage table, wherein the configuration parameter values provide data unique to the function of the one or more parts within the ~~said~~ unit of manufacture~~, which is related to both said unit parts list storage table and said parameter definition lookup table~~.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein for a first part corresponding to an entry in said parts ~~list~~ information lookup table, ~~is related to~~ a part type lookup table in the relational database is usable to access information indicating a part type for the first part and information indicating whether the first part is variable in size ~~for grouping said parts into part categories~~.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said unit parts list storage table is related to a processor group storage table in the relational database that is usable to access:

information indicating that ~~for~~ a group[[ing]] of parts is associated with a processor listed in the unit parts list storage table; and

information indicating that the processor and group of parts are associated with a particular operating system.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relational database further comprises[[ing]] an interface definition lookup table ~~and a unit interconnect storage table~~, wherein said interface definition lookup table defines interfaces for a plurality of parts in the parts information lookup table, wherein the interfaces are potential locations for electrical and/or mechanical connections between parts.

~~wherein said parts list lookup table is related to said interface definition lookup table for defining interfaces unique to a part in the parts list, and said unit parts list storage table is related to said unit interconnect storage table, which is related to said interface definition lookup table for defining connections between parts in said unit parts list.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said interface definition lookup table is related to an interface family lookup table in the relational database, wherein the interface family lookup table is usable to access information ~~for~~ identifying compatible mating connections of said plurality of parts in the parts information lookup table.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the relational database further comprises a parameter list lookup table ~~is related to~~ and a parameter description look up table that are usable to access information indicating ~~for defining multiple groups of parameters, which allow~~ multiple pre-defined configurations of a part listed in the unit parts list storage table.

12-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method comprising:

~~a storage device having software stored thereon which, if executed, causes a computer to~~:

accessing a relational database to obtain configuration information regarding a unit of manufacture, the relational database comprising at least one location information lookup table, at least one parts information lookup table, and at least one unit storage table; and

retrieving configuration information on the unit of manufacture from at least a portion of the relational database;

wherein the at least one location information lookup table comprises:

a list of available locations in the unit of manufacture to place a part from the at least one parts information lookup table; and

information indicating, for each one of a plurality of available locations in the unit of manufacture, whether that location is required to be populated by a part;

wherein the at least one parts information lookup table comprises entries for a plurality of parts usable in different types of units of manufactures; and

wherein the at least one unit storage table specifies a configuration of the unit of manufacture, and comprises:

a unit parts list storage table containing information indicating a list of parts for the configuration of the unit of manufacture, and further containing, for each part in the list of parts, information usable to determine at least one location within the unit of manufacture at which that part can be placed; and

a unit parameter list storage table containing information regarding configuration parameter values for one or more parts in the unit parts list storage table, wherein the configuration parameter values provide data unique to the function of the one or more parts within the unit of manufacture.

~~store information in a relational database related to a unit of manufacture, said relational database comprising a pair of configuration management storage tables, wherein said pair of configuration management storage tables are linked together, a first one of said configuration management storage tables comprising a configuration management status table and a second one of said configuration management storage tables comprising a management memo table, wherein the configuration management memo table stores configuration comments;~~

~~access said pair of configuration management storage tables using a first index key to obtain information regarding creation of the unit of manufacture, the first index key defining a group of configuration management records for a part definition, location definition or unit definition; and~~

~~access said pair of configuration management storage tables using a second index key to obtain information regarding creation of the unit of manufacture, the second index key defining current configuration management records for a part definition, location definition, or a unit location.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 35, wherein for a first part corresponding to an entry in said parts information lookup table, a part type lookup table in the relational database is usable to access information indicating a part type for the first part and information indicating whether the first part is variable in size.

~~said relational database further comprises at least one location information lookup table providing a list of available locations to place a part in a unit of manufacture.~~

37. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 35 ~~36~~, wherein said unit parts list storage table is related to a processor group storage table in the relational database that is usable to access:

information indicating that a group of parts is associated with a processor listed in the unit parts list storage table; and

information indicating that the processor and group of parts are associated with a particular operating system.

~~said at least one location information lookup table further comprises a location definition lookup table.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 35 ~~31~~, wherein the relational database further comprises an interface definition lookup table, wherein said interface definition lookup table defines interfaces for a plurality of parts in the parts information lookup table, wherein the interfaces are potential locations for electrical and/or mechanical connections between parts.

~~said relational database further comprises at least one parts information lookup table providing a catalog of parts.~~

39. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 35 ~~33~~, wherein the relational database further comprises a parameter list lookup table and a parameter description look up table that are usable to access information indicating multiple pre-defined configurations of a part listed in the unit parts list storage table.

~~said at least one parts information lookup table further comprises a parts list lookup table capable of identifying one or more parts.~~

40. (Currently Amended) A computing device ~~system~~, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device coupled to the processor;

wherein the storage device stores relational database software executable by the processor to maintain a relational database usable to access information regarding a unit of manufacture, the relational database comprising at least one location information lookup table, at least one parts information lookup table, and at least one unit storage table;

wherein the at least one location information lookup table comprises:

a list of available locations in the unit of manufacture to place a part from the at least one parts information lookup table; and

information indicating, for each one of a plurality of available locations in the unit of manufacture, whether that location is required to be populated by a part;

wherein the at least one parts information lookup table comprises entries for a plurality of parts usable in different types of units of manufactures; and

wherein the at least one unit storage table specifies a configuration of the unit of manufacture and comprises:

a unit parts list storage table containing information indicating a list of parts for the configuration of the unit of manufacture, and further containing, for each part in the list of parts, information usable to determine at least one location within the unit of manufacture at which that part can be placed; and

a unit parameter list storage table containing information regarding configuration parameter values for one or more parts in the unit parts list storage table, wherein the configuration parameter values provide data unique to the function of the one or more parts within the unit of manufacture.

~~a pair of configuration management storage tables, wherein said pair of configuration management storage tables are linked together, a first one of said configuration management storage tables comprising a configuration management status table and a second one of said~~

~~configuration management storage tables comprising a management memo table, wherein the configuration management memo table stores configuration comments;~~

~~wherein the storage device stores a first index key to access said pair of configuration management storage tables to obtain information regarding creation of the unit of manufacture, the first index key defining a group of configuration management records for a part definition, location definition or unit definition; and~~

~~wherein the storage device stores a second index key to access said pair of configuration management storage tables to obtain information regarding creation of the unit of manufacture, the second index key defining current configuration management records for a part definition, location definition, or a unit location.~~

41. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 40, wherein for a first part corresponding to an entry in said parts information lookup table, a part type lookup table in the relational database is usable to access information indicating a part type for the first part and information indicating whether the first part is variable in size.

~~said relational database further comprises at least one location information lookup table providing a list of available locations to place a part in a unit of manufacture.~~

42. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 40 ~~41~~, wherein said unit parts list storage table is related to a processor group storage table in the relational database that is usable to access:

information indicating that a group of parts is associated with a processor listed in the unit parts list storage table; and

information indicating that the processor and group of parts are associated with a particular operating system.

~~said at least one location information lookup table further comprises a location definition lookup table.~~

43. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 40, wherein the relational database further comprises an interface definition lookup table, wherein said interface definition lookup table defines interfaces for a plurality of parts in the parts information lookup table, wherein the interfaces are potential locations for electrical and/or mechanical connections between parts.

~~said relational database further comprises at least one parts information lookup table providing a catalog of parts.~~

44. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 40, wherein the relational database further comprises a parameter list lookup table and a parameter description look up table that are usable to access information indicating multiple pre-defined configurations of a part listed in the unit parts list storage table.

~~said at least one parts information lookup table further comprises a parts list lookup table capable of identifying one or more parts.~~

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

assembling the unit of manufacture in accordance with the configuration information in the relational database.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

testing the assembled unit of manufacture in accordance with the configuration information in the relational database.

47. (Canceled)